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HARDING
U N I V E R S I T Y

Bison

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Deployment delayed for Harding students

Date uncertain for departure to Iraq

Sarah West
Copy editor

Harding students in the Arkansas Army National Guard's 39th Brigade would have to report for duty on Sept. 13 if not for a delay of deployment.

Uncertain of the actual date, seniors Jacqueline Dillion, Jason Darden and Niki Thompson will most likely leave for Fort Hood, Texas before January. The students will go to prepare for a minimum six-month stay in Baghdad, Iraq.

The students are unsure why their deployment has been delayed.

"I don't know anything for sure," Darden said. "But I'm relieved it got delayed and that I can spend more time with my family."

The news of the deployment and the uncertainty of the date created mixed feelings.

"We thought it was definite, now we're up in the air," Dillion said. "My dad is excited about me going, my brothers are a little confused, but my mom is pretty nervous. She's happy [about the delay] because it gives me more time at home."

Dillion would have graduated at the end of this semester with a degree in English.

"I went ahead and dropped my biology class when I re-enrolled," Dillion said. "I would prefer we

went as scheduled because I fell behind in school. This will make getting back into school harder."

Dillion will spend her time in Baghdad at the Tactical Operations Center. A member from each unit in the area remains at the TOC to serve as a means of communication to the units in the field.

In the event that a chemical weapon is detonated, Dillion takes into consideration the direction and speed of the wind, the weather and other such variables in order to alert any units that may be in the path of danger.

The rest of the unit will spend most of its time guarding checkpoints around its assigned area.

Dillion, Darden and Thompson will become three of eight students who have been involved in active military duty. Shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks, Darden reported for duty and served with his unit in Egypt. He is now a member of the University of Central Arkansas ROTC as well as the 39th Brigade.

John Cody, Josh Goss, Robert Groves, Nathan Swanson and Eden Taylor have all reported for active duty since the attacks. According to the Office of Student Services, Goss is the only student who has been readmitted to Harding.

Staff writer Sarah Crist contributed to this report.

University 26th in magazine's rankings

Lori Liming
Staff writer

U.S. News and World Report ranked Harding 26th in the Southern division in the "Best Universities — Masters" survey, an increase from the 27th spot it held last year.

"I'm always pleased to be rated this highly by an outside source," President David Burks said. "It lends validity to what we think at Harding. Plus it is great to have this national visibility on our University."

Many students agree that the national exposure is a benefit to Harding.

"It's nice to realize you are attending a school that is nationally ranked," sophomore Chesley Martin said. "Hopefully my future employers will recognize Harding's academic excellence when I start to apply for positions."

The survey focuses on both private and public schools that provide a broad range of undergraduate and master's programs but offer only a small amount of doctoral programs. The campuses are divided into four regions — North, South, Midwest and West. Schools submitted data in the

categories of peer assessment among academics, graduation and retention, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, average alumni giving rate and graduation rate performance.

U.S. News assigned every category a weight that reflected its opinion on the importance of each issue. The colleges are ranked against each other based on their total score.

Harding achieved an overall score of 50. This tied it with the University of North Carolina in

▲ See Harding, Page 3

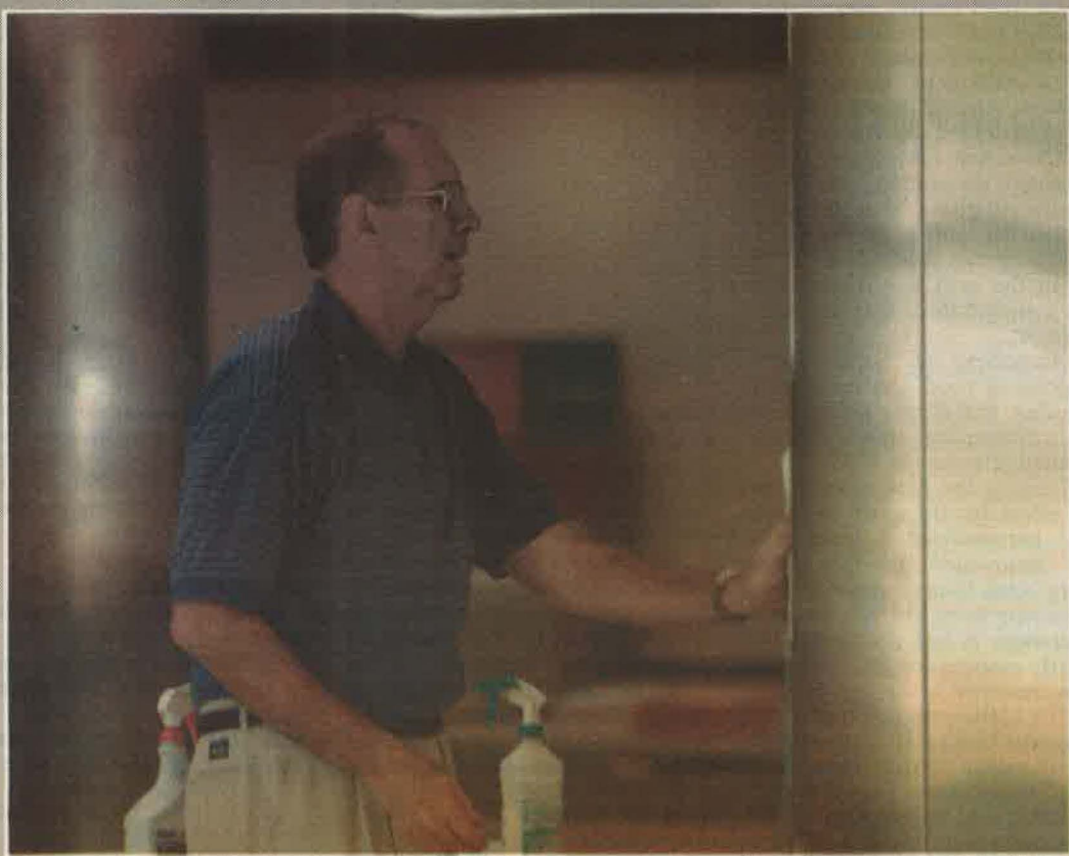
U.S. News Rankings

Universities — Masters, South Region

No.	School	Score
1.	University of Richmond	100
2.	Rollins College	77
3.	James Madison University	74
4.	Stetson University	73
5.	Samford University	69
	Loyola University	65
	Mary Washington College	65
	Mercer University	65
9.	Elon University	64
10.	Centenary College of Louisiana	62
	The Citadel	62
23.	David Lipscomb University	51
26.	Harding University	50

Source: U.S. News and World Report

Graphic: Jeffery Hunter



JEFF MONTGOMERY / Harding Public Relations

Presidential Polish

President David Burks helps in the Aug. 21 clean up effort to prepare the newly-remodeled cafeteria for service. The \$2.25 million renovation project lasted throughout the summer break and was completed just in time for the faculty dinner on Aug. 21 and breakfast for students the next morning. The cafeteria boasts modern decor, a head chef and a new open kitchen serving concept. Despite the changes, some students complain of long lines and confusion in the serving areas. More information on the new cafeteria renovations can be found on page 2.

A Pirate, a bat and a sausage: One senior's fateful night

Jeremy D. Beauchamp
Feature editor

Wednesday, July 9, started out as an average Milwaukee day for senior Veronica Piech. She headed off to her dream summer job, working as a member of the "Brew Crew" at Miller Park, home of baseball's Brewers.

She started out when she was 16 at County Stadium, before the stadium went the way that so many others have, selling out to a beer company. Piech got the job after applying at her mother's suggestion. She says the best part of her job is that she gets to work with her two sisters. Oh, and then there are the perks that go along with working in a major league ballpark.

She's met Hank Aaron and Ryne Sandberg. She's played catch with Vladimir Guerrero and Sammy Sosa to name a couple. On July 9, she was able to meet another, seemingly less intimidating opponent — sort of.

Randall Simon came up through the Braves' organization. He had come a long way from Curacao, an island located in the southern region of the Caribbean. He made his debut in 1997 for the Braves, but he is now best known for his swinging stint with the Pittsburgh Pirates. It was in a Pirates uniform that he entered Miller Park on July 9.

Piech arrives an hour and a half early to the park every home game and checks the board for the night's duty. She describes herself as a "left field girl," referring to her favorite Brew Crew duty, the ball girl position, when she sits along either the left or right field line and scoops up foul balls.

A highlight of the position is handing out snagged baseballs to children in the stands. Perhaps the best moment of her life was spent along that left field line, when her fiancé, Paul Chandler proposed to her before the entire stadium on the big screen following the national anthem.

On July 9, though, Piech didn't score her favorite role, but still had what she calls an "easy night." At least, it was supposed to be easy.

"Pretty nice job," Piech said, referring to her duties that night. "I just had T-shirt toss and sausage race."

The infamous sausage race is the cure to the average Brewers game. Milwaukeeans thrive on the nightly event. It has been featured on Sports Center after Sports Center. Sports journalists and players have donned the Italian, hot dog, bratwurst or Polish costumes to race in the event. The crowd cheers on its favorite sausage as it sprints towards the finish line.

Simon had no doubt seen the

sausage race during his stays in Atlanta and with the Brewers' interleague rival the lowly Detroit Tigers. The 6-foot, 240-pound first baseman knew what to expect as he lined the dugout fence along the third base line that Wednesday for the show.

Watching the game for the past three innings, after T-shirt throw was finished in the third, Piech headed down to the left field fence to get ready for the race before the bottom of the sixth.

"You carry your costume down [to the left field fence] and you start out there," Piech said. "Two guys and two girls, nothing really out of the ordinary. A pretty typical night."

A typical night at the sausage races for Piech includes donning the 10-pound rubber foam costume, which is an atypical act to perform. The costumes have shoulder straps and one almost has to dive into the costume to put it on. This night Piech was the hot dog, her co-worker Mandy Block, the Italian sausage, and the other two took up the Polish and the brat as the race was begun near the visitor's dugout. They started out neck-and-neck, or link-to-link, whatever.

"We came out of the gate good, it's not staged," Piech said, emphatically. "We try to make it exciting."

▲ See Volleyball, Page 7

OUTSIDE THE BUBBLE

SISTER SCHOOLS

ACU gives away car to freshman

ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY — ACU welcomed incoming freshman with fun, games and a chance to win a car at its annual Welcome Week for new students, the ACU Optimist reports.

The idea started as a joke, but became a reality when a 1999 Dodge Neon was donated to the school by an Abilene car dealership.

Pepperdine postpones Hong Kong studies

PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY — The university's newest overseas campus was forced to delay its opening because of the outbreak of SARS, the Graphic reports. School officials blame the disease for creating a harsh recruiting atmosphere for the program.

At the time of the World Health Organization's travel warning, only four students had agreed to participate in Pepperdine's sixth international program.

CHURCH

Small congregations the norm

According to the 2003 edition of "Churches of Christ in the United States," 70 percent of the 13,198 congregations of the churches of Christ have fewer than 99 people. Based on recorded attendance figures, there are more than 1.26 million members. Only five percent of those worship in congregations of more than 1,000.

Church spends \$1.5 million in 9/11 aid

Leaders of the Manhattan church of Christ in New York spent more than \$1.5 million from their World Trade Center fund. Most of the money was used in direct aid to families of victims while the remainder was spent on outreach and administration.

According to the Christian Chronicle, the congregation is working on plans to spend the final \$294,421, which was designated earlier for evangelistic outreach.

ARKANSAS

Clark mulls run for democratic nomination

Retired Army Gen. Wesley Clark, a speaker in Harding's American Studies Institutes Distinguished Lecture Series last year, said he will decide whether or not he will run for the 2004 Democratic presidential nomination by the end of the week. U.S. Rep. Vic Snyder, Searcy's congressional representative, has pledged his support for a Clark candidacy.

NATION

12-year-old begins medical school

Twelve-year-old Sho Yano started this semester as a first-year medical student at the University of Chicago. He graduated from Loyola University in three years, and plans to graduate with both a Ph.D. and a medical degree at the age of 20. Yano began playing the piano at age 3, and composing at 4. He scored a 1,500 on the SAT at age 9.

Remodeled cafeteria draws compliments, suggestions

Students enjoy modern decor, express concerns about lines

ALISA MOLONEY

Staff writer

After more than three months, Harding and Aramark completed a \$2.5 million renovation to the cafeteria Aug. 21, just in time for the start of the fall semester.

The new cafeteria boasts modern decorating and the implementation of an open kitchen concept.

The renovation will wrap up in the next few weeks with the completion of the building's exterior.

According to Steve Ritter, director of food services, this is the first major renovation since the University made minor cosmetic changes in 1997.

Despite the new interior and an effort by the staff to create a personalized experience, the renovation brought some complaints from students of long, confusing lines at peak hours of operation. A lack of menus and clearly marked serving lines were also concerns.

"[It is] the same smiling faces, a new chic look and a lot more time to appreciate it while standing in line," senior Rusty Brown said.

Ritter said that on Aug. 26, the first day of classes, the cafeteria handled the largest volume of students it has experienced in the five years Ritter has served at Harding.

He said the first week of operation was the most hectic, especially during the peak hours of 11:40 a.m.-noon and again from 12:40-1 p.m.

In response to the long lines, Ritter suggests dining between the lunch rushes, which occur at 11:45 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. He said signposts to hold daily menus have been ordered and will be



CURTIS SERIGHT / The Bison

Long lines did not prevent these students from finding a favorite Comfort Food for lunch Wednesday. Although some students have complained about lines, the hungry have a selection of new menu items as well as new surroundings to accompany their dining experience. "[We made] the effort and expense to make this a place where students want to be and, if need arises, make suggestions known," Steve Ritter, director of food services, said.

put up as soon as they arrive. Aramark is also posting biweekly menus under the Campus Life Tab on Campus Pipeline.

The cafeteria's open-air design allows students to gather with friends for casual dining. Televisions broadcast the news, and two network hook-up locations allow students to access the Internet with laptops while dining.

"The effort and expense went to make this a place where students want to be," Ritter said.

In addition to the cosmetic changes, Ritter said the quality of food continues to improve.

Aramark hired head chef Bob Wolf to help improve the cuisine. Wolf, trained in Cleveland, Ohio, has a strong background in Italian cooking but is looking forward to introducing new items to the menu, including seafoods.

Wolf, who is often seen

working throughout the cafeteria, welcomes students' questions and input.

He said his goal is to make the students feel comfortable and at home.

"I am the students' chef," Wolf said. "I am available to them."

Rotisserie chicken is offered at the Comfort Food station. The hamburgers are hand-turned and homemade potato chips

"[It is] the same smiling faces, a new chic look and a lot more time to appreciate it while standing in line."

— senior Rusty Brown

are available.

A full bakery offers a variety of fresh cakes, cookies and pies, including several low-fat desserts for health-conscious students.

The all-day-breakfast station has been popular because of omelets that are made-to-order and the Belgium waffle station. Fresh fruits and vegetables line the counters not only as decoration but also as a menu choice, cut upon request.

Many students have been impressed with the variety of food.

"[The selection] is good," sophomore Lorie Owen said. "If you don't want something you can usually get something different. So, there is variety, which is good."



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Online registration, Welcome Center declared successful

From staff reports

As a result of the new online registration process, which allowed students to academically and financially register for the fall semester last spring and throughout the summer, the university revamped its traditional arena registration.

In its place, the university organized what officials hope was a more festive and less hectic Welcome Center in the Ganus Athletic Center Friday, Aug. 22 and Monday, Aug. 25. Instead of herding students to different stations in the GAC as in year's past, the Welcome Center served as a place for students to reunite with friends and take care of unfinished business before classes began Aug. 26.

"Our goal was to make sure that on Tuesday morning every student could attend class being fully registered," Keith Cronk, vice president for Information Technology Services, said.

Students did not need time cards to attend the Welcome Center, and once they arrived at the event, they were free to visit and enjoy refreshments, enter a door prize drawing for more than 50 gifts, including a refrigerator and stereo system which local businesses donated, pick up a student activities calendar, and visit with local vendors.

"We wanted it to be a festive occasion, but still be able to get business done," Cronk said.

Freshman and new students were instructed to go to the Welcome Center as part of a Student Impact activity on Friday, while returning students were asked to attend on Monday.

However, a large number of

upperclassmen arrived on campus early, and many went to the Welcome Center on Friday, creating longer lines than expected.

Dr. Delores Carson, assistant vice president for Student Services, said the dorms were 75 percent full on Friday.

"We were really surprised about the amount of people who had come early," Molly Noble, director of the business office, said.

At the welcome center, students picked up checklists that indicated whether they had unfinished business to complete in order to be fully registered. Some students had to be assigned a chapel seat while others needed to sign forms to live off campus. Once all unfinished business was completed, students were able to pick up their new I.D.s.

About 1,500 students had to see the business office to remedy problems regarding financial aid, billing addresses, down payments and other issues.

While the long lines to the business office slowed down some students, Cronk said most completed their business at the Welcome Center in about 10-15 minutes.

"I thought it [the welcome center] was great," JoErin Tonnerson said, "but I didn't have to go through the business office line."

The Welcome Center committee will meet this semester to discuss ways to improve the efficiency of the event for the spring. Cronk said a student focus group might be assembled to help with this process.

According to Cronk, some of the changes for next semester may include refined checklists, more signs directing students to and around the Welcome Center and placing the vendor tables in more convenient locations in the gym.

Our goal was to make sure that on Tuesday morning every student could attend class being fully registered.

— Keith Cronk, vice president for Information Technology Services



CURTIS SERIGHT / The Bison

Projecting the Word

Senior Josh Bontrager speaks with the aid of a slide show to prospective student missionaries at the World Tour on Wednesday in the McIntire rotunda. Bontrager worked in Africa this summer as part of a mission team. The Tour offered information about many of the mission opportunities around the world available to students and corresponded with "missions week" in chapel.

Harding among best in South

Continued from page 1

Charlotte. Harding scored the following — 3.1 out of 5.0 in peer assessment, 77% in average freshman retention rate, 57% in average graduation rate, 47% of its classes have fewer than 20 students and 18/1 in student/faculty ratio.

Students found the ranking of other Christian schools, including David Lipscomb University, intriguing.

"I'm thrilled that some Christian schools received rankings," sophomore April Taber said.

The ranking helps reinforce some

students' faith in Harding's academic programs.

"When I first applied here, I was worried that some would doubt Harding's academic integrity when compared to other universities," Taber said. "I'm pleased that others are aware of the standards we have here."

However, the survey did not include the university's Christian background. Disappointed faculty and students value the focus on developing Christian servants.



"Organizations like these have to use their own criteria to create these surveys," Burks said. "In the end, they never use factors that are most important to us. By that I mean what we are doing in terms of creating a spiritual atmosphere where students are asked to be Christian servants."

"The other schools listed here just don't do that," he said. "I feel they [U.S. News] just don't put enough emphasis on what our university is known for."

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The *Bison* is a campus newspaper written, edited and largely financed by students, seeking to provide high-quality journalistic discussion of issues of concern to the Harding community. It also serves as an educational tool for students, providing practical experience to enhance skills learned in the classroom. The *Bison* recognizes its responsibility to be accurate, fair and objective in its reporting while upholding the Christian ideals for which Harding University exists.

It attempts to serve as a forum for student perspectives, welcoming letters to the editor which adhere to ethical and professional standards and are no more than 300 words in length. Signed columns appearing in the *Bison* are the views of the writer and may not reflect the official policy of the Harding University administration. Unsigned columns represent the view of the editorial board.

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Future in need of Christian leaders

Frightening images of the future appeared in the Aug. 25 issue of The Graphic, the student newspaper of Pepperdine University. Perspectives editor Jordan Morris painted a disturbing picture in an opinion column, "Queer Year — Culture trend electrifies gay rights movement."

Morris expresses his opinion that Pepperdine — an institution originally founded on Christian principles much like our own alma mater — should abandon its policy against recognition of homosexual student organizations and "join American society in its gradual acceptance of the gay community."

Morris reasons that since the Episcopal church elected a gay bishop and Jay Leno invited the cast of "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" onto his show, the rest of the country should fall in line with the acceptance of the homosexual agenda.

Furthermore, Morris says, "dozens of mainstream celebrities such as Justin Timberlake, Mark Wahlberg, Robbie Williams and Garth Brooks have publicly expressed their personal acceptance of the gay community and have spoken out in favor of gay rights."

It seems that someone has had a little too much time in the Malibu sun.

At the risk of sounding like an off-balance, pessimistic radical conservative (or perhaps a member of the vast right-wing conspiracy), I think the idea that we should accept homosexuals simply because it has



JEFFREY C. HUNTER

A Word In Edgewise

become a social trend is disturbing.

While the growing influence of the homosexual agenda is troubling, it is only part of a much broader problem affecting society and our generation in particular.

It has become imperative for our generation to embrace culture, regardless of how many values have to be shed and scriptures have to be contorted to fit into the mold.

People are abandoning reason and rational thought to follow a ridiculous and dangerous perspective — if the rest of the world thinks it is acceptable, it must be.

At a time when traditional American values are crumbling from the gradual diminishing of their Christian foundation, it is imperative that this generation be prepared to step into the world as leaders.

Leadership, however, doesn't end at the door of the statehouse. The most powerful

work we can do to enhance the future will be to lead our own families.

We must be ready to take advantage of every leadership opportunity available from the steps of the capitol to the front porches of our homes.

We are fortunate to be at a university that offers many resources to prepare for future service. We should use every moment in our little bubble to our advantage.

Building up our faith and education now will help us defend ourselves from the cultural tomato-throwing that will accompany our soon to be counter-cultural beliefs.

Back on Pepperdine's sunny oceanside campus, Morris accuses the university of being inferior for its policies against homosexual campus organizations.

"This reluctance on behalf of the university sets it several steps back from the rest of the nation," he said.

If the culture of the rest of the nation is to abandon Christian values to embrace disturbing causes such as the homosexual agenda, then I will gladly stand several steps back. But I won't do it silently.

Jeffrey Hunter is editor-in-chief of the *Bison* and can be reached at 501-279-4471 or jchunter@harding.edu.

Building up our faith and education now will help us to be able to defend ourselves from the cultural tomato-throwing that will accompany our soon to be counter-cultural beliefs.

'On the road' trip through Arkansas

I took off last Friday for the barren wastelands of Kansas. More specifically the 'burbs of what the locals call KCK, the Kansas side of Kansas City. I've made this drive many times, but there is always something new to keep my attention.

Who needs a semester overseas when you've got the infamous Highway 65 only 40 miles away. It would be a great challenge to find another road that has a purer mix of equal parts hill-billy quaintness and natural beauty other than that which stretches north from Bee Branch, Ark. to Springfield, Mo.

I'm a travel bum. I like nothing more than to get out there and imbibe that road and everything she offers. On the road there are a million little tragedies (slow drivers, road work) and a million more breaths of air (curvy roads, dotted yellow lines).

On the 65 you will find anything that matters. Beat rock shops line the road like dandelions, those beautiful weeds that kids blow wishes on. Branson billboards begin not long past Clinton, Ark. and must

be one of the Seven Wonders of the South. I view the signs as more of a warning to stay away than an encouragement to stop. I don't harbor even a slight desire to see Kirby Van Burch and his exotic animals cavort on stage, nor do I long to see any Osmond do anything. Besides, the signs take away from the beast which is the lush Arkansas greenery lapping up the roadside.

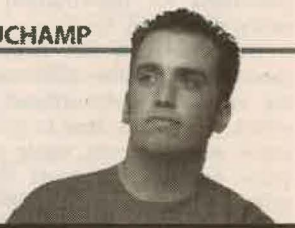
On one particular stretch in Searcy County, the curves get their tightest, and the drive gets its most breathtaking. Coming through one of the final curves, a postcard shot from heaven develops abruptly before your eyes. An old steel barn rests like a sentinel guarding a verdant

stretch of acreage that looks like some romantic scene set in an Irish valley. Hills roll in the background while stone cliffs rise above you on the opposite side of the highway. This sight alone is worth the trip, truly a spiritual oneness can be attained in northern Arkansas.

It is difficult to believe that the Las Vegas of the sticks looms an hour beyond, beckon-

I'm a travel bum. I like nothing more than to get out there and imbibe that road and everything she offers. On the road there are a million little tragedies and a million more breaths of air.

JEREMY D. BEAUCHAMP



Volumes

ing the bored and the retired to revel in its miles of one-of-a-kind restaurants and shows featuring has-been country stars and fiddlers named Shoji. And they come. Like so many insects to lights in the dark they gather from all over the South and the Midwest. Once I reach Interstate 44, the real driving fun ends. Missouri roads are literally the pits. Destinations can sweeten any drive if equal beauty awaits you at the end of the road. In my case it did. I celebrated a special occasion, and I even found out my Serta Sleep Number (45 with no particular distaste to anything within a 10-number radius).

Each student, faculty or staff member owes it to themselves to take off some weekend, especially as autumn and its flashy colors fast approaches. To those who understand it, nothing speaks louder than that esoteric language of the road. Volumes, my friend, volumes.

Prayer a powerful force — when it's used

I have just returned from one of the most unique experiences of my life. I, along with my wife and another Harding student, spent the last hour or so driving around the outside borders of Searcy praying for the inhabitants.

Although advertised as a "prayer walk," it turned out to be a "prayer drive" in the most literal sense. I honestly didn't have very high expectations from the event, but God surprised me in more ways than one.

This all began several months ago when a Christian woman who worked for the city as part of a drug-fighting task force called me to tell me about a special day of prayer they were having. Although they were working on a "secular" problem (methamphetamine) and were funded by a federal grant, they wanted to use prayer as a primary weapon to fight against the devil.

She told me how they were going to involve all the churches in the area and invite them to one big day of prayer. The dream was to have thousands of Christians from all over the city and county praying for a focused purpose at the same time.

If numbers were the primary goal, the afternoon was a failure. We did have a couple hundred people there, but it was far short of the masses I envisioned. I thought



MICHAEL CAMPBELL

Guest Room

I believe in the power of prayer. If it wasn't so powerful, I don't think Satan would work so hard to discourage us from doing it.

that out of 15,000 or so Christians in Searcy, we could at least get 1,000-2,000. However, as you probably guessed, numbers weren't the main goal. Prayer was the main goal, and that goal was met.

We all joined in one big caravan and drove a route that completely surrounded the city. While we drove, we prayed. It was a little unnatural for me. I had never tried to pray for that long before, and I freely admit that I didn't stay focused the whole time. It is difficult to do, but it is good to try.

It was also strange to join with people from different denominations, but that too turned out to be a positive experience. I

may not agree with them on all the doctrine, but I sure do appreciate the fact that they care enough to pray with me.

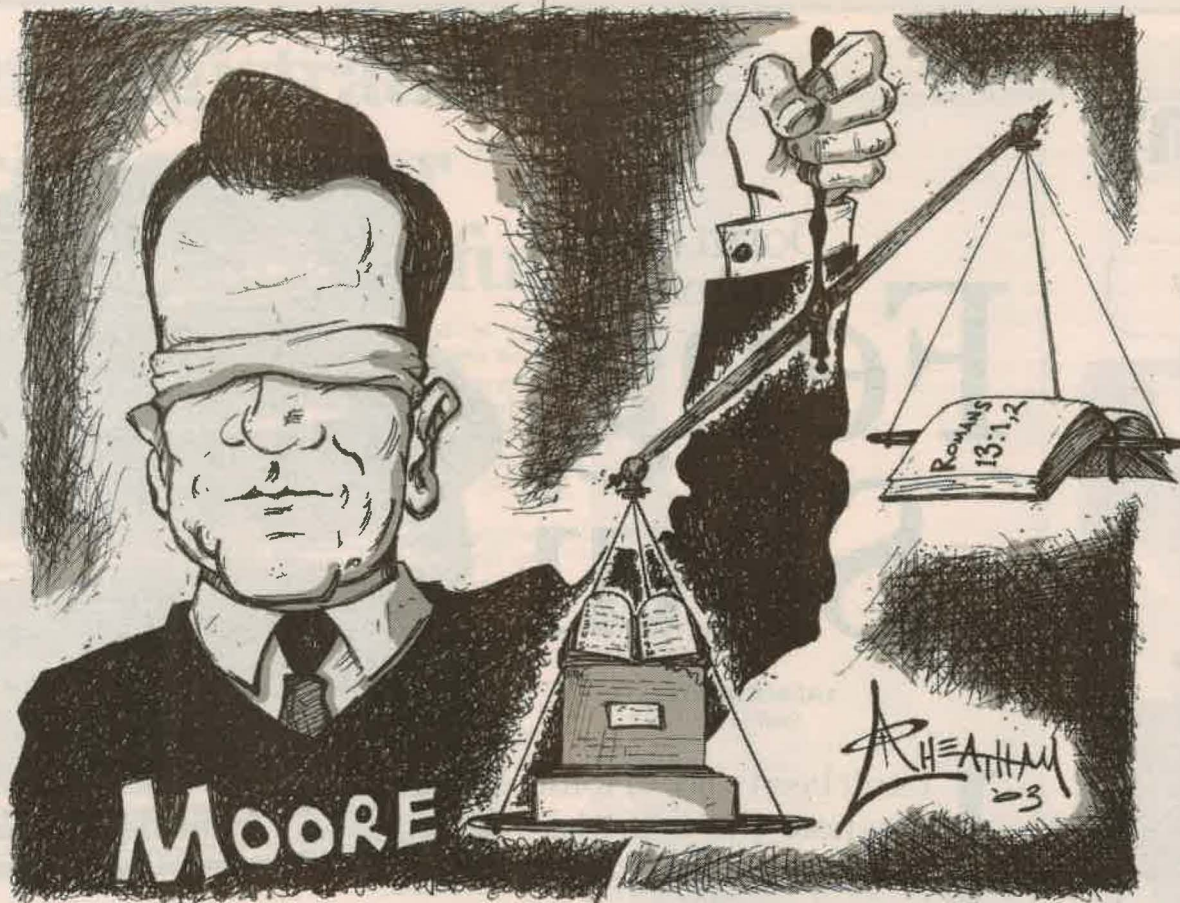
I have to be honest. I am not a great prayer warrior. God often has to drive me to my knees forcibly through hardships. There are many times I have thought I was too busy to pray. I am also afflicted by other prayer problems. I fall asleep. I get distracted. I don't fully believe in what I am saying.

However, through it all, I believe in the power of prayer. If it wasn't so powerful, I don't think Satan would work so hard to discourage us from doing it.

Think about it — doesn't it often feel like the devil tells us the last thing we should count on is prayer? Maybe say a token prayer or two, but never really put our faith in it. Well, it is not true!

The greatest confidence we should be able to muster is in our God. He is there and he is real, and he wants to provide for us. However, we need to ask him on our knees. This year the Student Association will focus on prayer, its power and its results. We will give God the glory for His power (not our own), and we will thank Him for His many blessings.

I will be in the SA office most days from 2-3 p.m. to pray. Please stop by.



Thou Shalt Not

Alabama judge's fight is an injustice to Christians

While we are not opposed to public displays of religion, the recent efforts of Chief Justice Roy Moore of the Alabama Supreme Court and his many supporters are disappointing.

Moore blatantly disobeyed an order by U.S. District Judge Myron Thompson to remove a 5,300 pound granite monument of the Ten Commandments that Moore had placed in the rotunda of the Alabama Judicial Building two years earlier.

The monument was finally removed from the building Aug. 27 by order of Moore's fellow Supreme Court justices, but not before hundreds of protesters gathered for weeks to "protect" the monument and Moore did everything in his power to stop its removal.

What kind of message is Moore's fight sending to the non-Christian world?

If Moore were a Muslim fighting for a statue of Muhammad, feelings would probably be somewhat different. We would probably be offended by such a show, and would not respect the principles, or religion, behind the effort.

In addition, Moore is unfairly characterizing all Christians in the eyes of many. Is the pledge of a Christian to uphold the law of the land worthless?

Moore obviously believes in the significance of biblical law. His refusal to uphold his oath of office and obey the courts above him, however, is contradictory.

Judges, like Christians, cannot pick and choose

when they will obey the law. They must perform their appointed duties at all times.

Although there are many good reasons to support Moore's claim that the Ten Commandments monument was not violating the First Amendment, superior courts disagreed and it was his responsibility to comply with their order to remove it.

Moore should have followed the example of other Alabama state officials like Gov. Bob Riley, who disagrees with the order but understands that it must be obeyed.

"Because we are a society of laws, the Alabama Supreme Court has a duty to comply with the federal court order, whether they agree with it or not," Riley said.

It is important to remember the same First Amendment that requires the removal of displays of religion, according to present judicial interpretation, is also the amendment that permits us to assemble every Sunday morning for worship.

If our purpose as Christians is to evangelize for Christ, then we must do so in a way that is appropriate in our society. If the law of the land calls for the removal of stone monuments, then we must obey.

In legal terms, the Constitution places everyone on an even playing field. What sets Christians apart, however, should not be the display of the Ten Commandments in courthouses and public buildings — it should be the display of such biblical principles in our lives.

Removing 5,300 pounds of granite from the Alabama Judicial Building might not diminish the Christian influence in society, but failing to exhibit a Christ-like attitude of obedience could do just that.

Judges, like Christians, cannot pick and choose when they will obey the law.

TALK BACK

What has been your most unique Harding experience?



"I realized how special a Harding education was when, as a freshman, I saw my calculus teacher lead the prayer at church. The connection between education and worship is very powerful."

— Trixie Lee, sophomore.



"Imitating pledges and football players on the Benson stage while making a [chapel] announcement."

— Jessica Berry, sophomore



"Watching Allen's third floor slip and slide."

— Marvin Salgado, senior



"I was in the crowd during the hypnotist's show and found myself crawling on the floor to the bathroom. I didn't fully wake up until the next day after my accidental hypnosis."

— Nakeia Monte, sophomore

Accurate, open and fair

Our promise to you

It is the goal of the editorial staff of the *Bison* to bring accurate reports of the news that affects the Harding community and to provoke serious thought about the issues that affect us as individuals, as a community, as a part of the church at large.

Accurate and open

We aim to be thorough in our coverage of issues of importance to the student body, and the news within these pages will be accurate. We will perform an exhaustive search for the facts and pursue every avenue available for information.

The *Bison* will always be available as a forum for the student body and faculty alike. We encourage participation and feedback in our opinion pages through guest columns and letters to the editor.

In short, this is your newspaper, and we encourage you to tell us exactly how we can tailor it to best serve your needs.

Fair and independent

A student newspaper is not an arm of the administration. In keeping with journalistic tradition, the *Bison* strives to operate in an independent manner free from unwanted influence or censorship.

At the same time, we will be mindful of the proper respect due to the faculty and administration.

We will pursue any arguments that may arise with integrity and focus. The *Bison* does not exist to second-guess the administration or instigate dissent. We will not be factitious within the Harding community.

A student newspaper

It is important to remember that the *Bison* is a student newspaper. The newspaper that you pick up from the newsstand every week is the result of an on-going, living experiment in professional journalism for a staff of students responsible for the day-to-day operations of the publication.

While this is a learning experience for the staff, we will not use our student status as an excuse for inevitable errors. Readers are encouraged to inform us of our mistakes so that they may be acknowledged and corrected in a straightforward and professional manner.

A Christian publication

Above all else, the *Bison* will strive to let every printed word reflect the mission of this university and of the Church as a whole. We desire to promote a spirit of love, concern, humility, forgiveness and servanthood; to spotlight good works, great accomplishments, newsworthy events and those who are involved in them; to encourage our readers toward greater commitment to Christ and His teachings; and to present information that will equip us to live successfully in this world without surrendering our eternal view of life.

Letter Policy

The *Bison* welcomes your views on issues of interest to the Harding community. Tips and story ideas may be submitted to the editor at 501-279-4471 or thebison@harding.edu. Letters to the editor from students, faculty, administrators and the Searcy community are encouraged. Letters must be signed, contain a phone number for verification and be no more than 300 words in length. The *Bison* reserves the right to edit letters for style and brevity.

Above all else, The *Bison* will strive to let every printed word reflect the mission of this university and of the Church as a whole.

8 straight Church Cliches

Where are we going for lunch?

Let the church say ... Amen!

I'll try to
keep
this short.

Please turn to
number 728b

Separate
and apart
from the
Lord's
Supper ...

Please turn to and mark ...

Guide, guard and direct us

As we
stand and
as we sing.

Send your 8 Straight lists or ideas to
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Dorm room (and office) Feng Shui

ANDREA MARTIN
Staff writer



It's oft been said, "Home is where the heart is." Humbug. That saying is as threadbare as the pillows it has been needlepointed on. With the dawn of the 21st century came renewal for decorative degenerates who religiously mimic "Country Living Magazine" in their homes.

Now reality TV has again given the masses hope in half-hour doses. Shows such as The Learning Channel's "While You Were Out" and "Trading Spaces" expose the error of the common man's knick-knack ways and provide helpful tips to unburden, unclutter and beautify, not only living areas, but lives as well.

No doubt Nirvana has come, but have Harding students become enlightened?

"I live on TLC," senior Daisy Zinn said.

But it takes more than simple viewing to become a decorating expert. Use of the truths learned on TLC and HGTV are the evidence of a faithful decorator.

"Generally, I disagree with 'Trading Spaces,' so I adopted an anti-'Trading Spaces' design," senior Mark Leonard said. "I stuck my dresser in the bathroom. It adds some kind of utilitarian element and expands the functionality of the bathroom. The antithesis of Feng Shui has led me to a more functional living space."

Harding decorating rules and nail rations have thwarted the décor of many a dorm room, and in so doing prevented true Feng Shui.

"Feng Shui? What is Feng Shui?" junior Dave Pritchett asked.

Feng Shui (pronounced Fung Sway) is the Chinese system of analyzing and altering the flow of energy in an environment. In a nutshell, Feng Shui means every object has its place.

"I have seen it [Feng Shui] used in rooms," sophomore Kirshane Wyatt said. "It's a way of arranging furniture, and it really draws you in."

By using simple guidelines, with the addition of mandarin ducks, crystals, wind chimes and large dragons, any dorm room can be Feng Shui.

Feng Shui is a serious science and does not approve of anything fake. Real bamboo or other plants are highly recommended to promote harmony with nature.

"My bedroom is elfin with earth

tones—greens, grays and browns," Wyatt said. "I use a lot of natural lines and organic shapes."

Feng Shui is fully attainable in the dorms, but students are easily dissuaded.

"There is no balance [to my room]," junior Jessica Sloan said. "It's a college dorm. It's supposed to be fun. I don't like fancy, neat, clean, 'hotel rooms.'"

Sometimes students take on a cautionary attitude.

"I'm not into Feng Shui," junior Joanna Province said. "I try to stay away from that stuff."

Province is not alone in her aversion. Many of the unenlightened are likely to rebel out of ignorance.

Skeptics and ignorant naysayers often block the path to Feng Shui. Only after embracing the simplistic realities can one achieve Feng Shui at Harding.

"My office isn't so much the 'Trading Spaces' style. It reflects more the 'While You Were Out'—out of it ... style," Dr. Monte Cox, assistant professor of Bible, said.

Some may joke, but proper placement of objects is paramount in an office setting.

"That angled couch is in what I like to call the 'pre-marital position' where my wife and I do pre-marital counseling," Cox said.

Feng Shui incorporates balance not only in placement, but also in color.

"My decorations [in my office] present the perfect balance. The green in the lamps match the green in the curtains and matting. I am nothing if not color coordinated," Dr. John Fortner, associate professor of Bible, said.

Rare is the person, but great is the reward for one who accepts and applies the science of Feng Shui.

"My roommate and I refused to

bunk our beds because it made it feel more like a prison cell than a shared apartment," junior Michael Graves said. "The symmetrical setup of splitting the room in half is more equal and gives us a greater sense of camaraderie."

Despite all known benefits, Harding students still live in the dark. Little do they know they incorporate Feng Shui truths in their daily lives.

"Good housekeeping is a check to see if the living environment is conducive to healthy living," Tania Davis, Residence Life coordinator in Shores Hall, said. "If someone is allergic to mold or dust, required cleanings could help with that."

Shores dorm requires good housekeeping once a week.

Many rules of Feng Shui are basic—keep the bathroom door closed, toilet seat dry; open windows to prevent molding, etc.

"Since I am already an organized person, Feng Shui makes sense," junior Ami Cox said.

For those who are Feng Shui challenged there is hope. Hiring a Feng Shui consultant has never been easier online.

They charge for their services, but it is a necessary investment, not a frivolous expense.

Too frugal to dole out money? Do-it-yourself Web sites suggest utilizing a hiker's compass to align cardinal directions with colors and elements. They also give guidance for proper placement of family photos.

Harding students have dwelled in darkened dorm rooms, unaware of the light they could have. The first step is the most difficult. Fight the ignorance. Illumine the darkness. Surrender to TV. It holds the key to your décor and destiny.

"I stuck my dresser in the bathroom. It adds some kind of utilitarian element and expands the functionality of the bathroom. The antithesis of Feng Shui has led me to a more functional living space."

— senior Mark Leonard



candy...

268-4443



Balloon-A-Grams

Photos by Curtis Seright

Volleyball standout worries after tumble leaves costume, knee tenderized

Continued from page 1

July 9 was particularly exciting for Piech, the hot dog, and Block, the Italian.

"I totally did not see it coming," Piech said.

Simon raised his bat and swung for the only thing he had been able to hit that far into the 2003 season, the head of the Italian sausage costume worn by Block. Block lost her balance and fell to the ground, taking out the legs of Piech.

"Before I could realize what was going on, I was tripping over my friend who had just fallen down," Piech said. "I had fallen before so I knew what it felt like. My initial reaction was to just get up ... I think

I took a last minute glance at the Italian and I just kept running."

It was a scary situation. Piech may be best known around campus as a member of Harding's dominant volleyball team. She attends Harding on a scholarship, which was in danger before a titanium rod was placed over her tibia to combat a stress fracture from years of competitive volleyball. That's why the ordeal was initially no laughing matter.

"My initial reaction was, I was extremely angry," Piech said. "I was disgusted with the whole act, to be honest. I felt it was completely inappropriate, even if it was just to be a funny joke."

Or maybe it was a little more. On her surgically repaired left leg, a scar

is visible near her kneecap, a constant reminder of the night's drama.

"My knee was definitely sore for a couple of days, but it got better," Piech said.

After the game Simon was arrested but was released and forced to pay a \$432 fine and serve a three-game suspension. Meanwhile, Piech and Block were receiving hundreds of calls and letters, while story-hungry reporters camped out on Piech's driveway. Radio stations from California to New York called live on the air; David Letterman, Jimmy Kimmel and Sharon Osbourne called for talk show fodder; that Friday, Piech and Block appeared on Good Morning America together to discuss the incident.

More than a week later, Piech received another call, this time in the middle of Wal-Mart. It was Randall Simon, calling to apologize.

"It was about a two-minute conversation," Piech said. "He just said he was completely sorry, and he didn't think that what happened would happen, and he wanted to apologize to me and my family."

"I was fine with it, I said, 'Okay, I appreciate you calling' and 'Good luck with the rest of your season,' and that was pretty much it," Piech said. "I definitely don't have any hard feelings. It was just a really stupid thing that he did, and I just happened to be the one in the race that night."

"July 9 turned out to be a really long day."

She and Block got July 10 off.

Despite the drama, she said some good has come out of it.

"I supposedly get a free, one-year supply of hot dogs, so we're waiting on a voucher for that," Piech said. "Probably the most exciting thing was the trip."

The trip: Soon after the incident the director for media relations for the Brewers called Piech in with an interesting proposal. The department of tourism for the island of Curacao called to offer Piech a free trip to Simon's homeland, they were afraid they were getting bad press.

"I'm glad he was from [the Caribbean] and not some other place," Piech said.

Top goal for 2003 soccer: Win on, off field

ALLIE OSBORNE
Staff writer

The youngest official sport played at Harding is underway. The fall semester means soccer season, along with new goals for the men's and women's teams.

"[My goal is to] try to attract more crowds to the fields," senior midfielder Jacobo Hernandez said.

Both Bison soccer teams began the season at home Aug. 30 with a loss to Northeastern St. The women fell 3-0, while the men lost 6-2.

Since the season opener, the Lady Bisons sit at 2-2, including a 10-1 rout of Lyon Sept. 2. The men's soccer team is looking for its first win of the year. It now sits at 0-3.

The players and the coach are each focusing on the goals they set for the season. "Both teams are very talented, but both teams have tough schedules," coach Greg Harris said. "I am confident in the teams I have and that they will compete just as well as anyone on our schedule."

While their schedules may be tough, the players are optimistic.

"I am predicting that the Lady Bisons will win more than we lose, make it to the Gulf South Conference Tournament and make a better name for Harding soccer," sophomore defender Julie Akins said.

Getting to the conference tournament is also a goal of the men's team. "Our first and main goal is to get to the conference tournament," senior forward Chris Jackson said. "Being a senior, I want to leave on a positive note; I want the best season Harding soccer has had."

Seven senior players lead the men's team this fall. "[We have] the leadership we need to take it to the next level," Harris said.

The senior players believe their experience together will be an advantage. "We have a strong core of players who have been playing together for four years," senior goalkeeper Mike Allen said. "Our chemistry is top notch, but we also



CURTIS SERIGHT/The Bison

Freshman Slade Daniel receives a pass, as sophomore Ryan Musick defends at a recent Bison practice. The Bison remain winless after three games.

have several new faces that are expected to make a huge impact."

Integrating the new players with the upperclassmen presents the challenge of "getting the freshmen the experience they need to play at this level," Jackson said.

As for the Lady Bisons, "Experience is everything, and we have plenty of it," assistant coach Jon Ireland said. "These girls have experience on their side, and as a result are very united in their quest to improve as a team."

Along with experience, the teammates are aware of other skills that could help them reach their goals.

"We have more quality soccer players than ever, not just athletes," Harris said. "I don't know if the women truly know how talented they are."

Both the women and men's teams feel a sense of unity. "We go through everything together, on and off the field," Allen said.

The players look at the experiences as beneficial in all areas of their lives.

"[Soccer] is a game which I enjoy playing and that has meant a lot to me over the past 10 years, and has taught me how to work hard as an individual as well as with a team," senior midfielder Courtney Saul said.

The players are not alone in believing they will walk away with something more than on-field success. Harris also finds the game of soccer enriching.

"I have learned a lot in the past two years because of what these athletes are teaching me," Harris said. "These students are what keeps me coming back."

I am predicting that the Lady Bisons will win more than we lose, make it to the Gulf South Conference Tournament and make a better name for Harding soccer

— sophomore Julie Akins



SPORTS CHALLENGE

After a one-year hiatus, the sports challenge has returned! Here's your chance to outguess the Sports Editor. Hey, it can't be that hard. I don't know everything. I just call them as I see them. The best pigskin prognosticator will win two free buffets with drinks from Pizza Pro in Searcy. Playing is simple, just predict the winners of each game and the exact results of the tie-breaker. Then, rip this form out and drop it in the Sports Challenge box on the ledge next to the U.S. Post Office window by 10 p.m. on Friday.

GOOD LUCK! After last weekend's upsets we will all need it!!!

Name _____

Box # _____

Phone # _____

NCAA Football

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arkansas @ Texas | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Purdue @ Wake Forest | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> North Carolina St. @ Ohio St. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notre Dame @ Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky @ Alabama | <input type="checkbox"/> |

NFL Football

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee @ Indianapolis | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carolina @ Tampa Bay | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> San Francisco @ St. Louis | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Houston @ New Orleans | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Tie Breaker:

NFL Football

Guess the winner and exact score of Monday's game

Dallas @ NY Giants

*Editors picks are in bold



MEDICAL CENTER PHARMACY

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268-3311

An open letter to all students:

I have worked closely with Harding students for many years. I believe I can relate to you and your health needs. As a former Harding student, I understand medical problems for students who are away from home. I stock many health-related items in addition to prescription drugs. I will be happy to transfer prescriptions from your home town pharmacy to us. Also, you may set up a charge account to your parents and have your drug bills sent home.

I pledge to you personal service and fair prices. Over the years we have become known as "the student's pharmacy." Please come by or call any time we can serve you.

Casey Lutrell, P.D.
Class of '97

Boyce Arnett, P.D.
Class of '66

Current Records of Bison Athletic Teams

Football: 1-0, 0-0 in GSC

Volleyball: 7-0, 0-0 in GSC

Women's Soccer: 2-2, 0-0 in GSC

Men's Soccer: 0-3, 0-0 in GSC

Harding University GSC Players of the Week (the week of 9/12/03)

Women's Soccer: Defensive
GK Gracey Mathis
*1st Lady Bison to be named since 2000.
*10 saves, a shutout, 40 goals on average.

Volleyball: Offensive
MB Kate Kennedy
*33 kills over six games
*7 aces, digs and blocks

Football: Defensive
DB Marco Cole
*5 tackles, 1 interception

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and of course, balloons.

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268-4443



MATT PRICE

The Price is Right

I have a newfound respect for the backup quarterback.

I now feel like that player who has spent his entire career in a secondary role for a successful program, and now has the opportunity to step into the starting role for his senior season. This is my first issue since taking the reins as sports editor of our beloved *Bison* newspaper.

Each week for the rest of the school year, this little section of the newspaper will be dedicated to my trying to make sense of stories revolving around the sports world. I thought I would begin the school year by saying, for sports fans, this truly is the most wonderful time of the year.

The air will soon start growing cooler and the leaves on the trees around campus will soon start changing color.

The sounds from First Security Stadium on Saturday afternoons will consist of helmets crashing and the marching band playing. We'll all be able to smell popcorn and frito chili-pies from our dorm rooms.

The NFL season has just kicked off, thus giving me yet another excuse for putting off studying until midnight on Sundays.

The Major League Baseball regular season will conclude in the next couple of weeks. Then the boys of summer will become heroes of October as they prepare for battle in the playoffs and World Series.

In Searcy, we have a great opportunity to watch our Bisons compete in one of the toughest divisions in Division II athletics. Expectations for our teams are extremely high, and Harding students should not take that for granted.

The ladies on our Bison volleyball team have gotten off to a great start after sweeping their first tournament of the year. The ladies aren't just trying to make the GSC tournament this year, they are trying to bump, set and spike their way to the GSC Championship.

This season will also be exciting for both our men's and women's soccer teams. The Bisons will face a difficult conference schedule as they strive to finish this season with winning records and earn a spot in the conference playoffs.

Finally, our Bison football team is seeking a repeat performance of last season, one of the most successful seasons Harding has accomplished in decades. Head coach Randy Tribble and the boys in gold and black have 14 starters returning from last year's team. This year the Bisons are hungry and they won't be satisfied unless they find themselves in the Div. II playoffs in November.

Certainly, it is a great time to be a sports fan at Harding. So, boys and girls, make a stop by the Rhodes this season and catch a volleyball match. Take a trip by Bison Field and watch our soccer teams strive for greatness.

Call your moms and tell them to knit you a sweater for those cold Saturday nights at First Security Stadium. This is fall and the temperatures are going to be dropping, but the atmosphere for athletics at Harding couldn't be hotter.

Bisons hope for return to glory in '03

Football team strives for Gulf South Conference championship, Division II playoffs

MATT PRICE
Sports editor

Placed under high expectations, the 2002 Harding Bison football team had the most successful season the university has seen in three decades.

The Bisons finished the year with a 9-2 record and finished second in the Gulf South Conference behind National Champion contender Valdosta State.

Despite a successful year, the Bisons failed to reach the Division II playoffs.

After losing just nine starters, the 2003 version of the Bisons looks to build on last year's success, win the GSC Championship and place themselves in the Division II playoffs for the first time since joining the GSC four seasons ago.

The Bisons have started the season in the win column, following a come-from-behind 22-19 victory over East Central University last Saturday.

The Bisons are off this weekend, but will resume their schedule next Saturday at home, against GSC opponent North Alabama.

"The expectations for this season aren't much different from last year's," head coach Randy Tribble said. "Expectations are high for this season."

Tribble is entering his tenth season as head coach of the Bisons.

"This year's team and last year's team are the two best I've had [as head coach]. Last year, the potential was awfully good. I find that this year we have a really good football team," Tribble said. "We're skilled on offense and have a young defense with lots of depth. We have a team of guys who love to play."

Senior quarterback Freddie Langston will lead the Bisons' offense.

In 2002, after passing for 2,275 yards and 20 touchdowns, Lang-



DAVID CROUCH/The Bison

Senior quarterback Freddie Langston looks to complete a pass downfield in the Bisons' Sept. 6 season opener at East Central University in Oklahoma. The Bisons scored 15 unanswered points in the last five minutes to slip by ECU, 22-19.

ton was named to the All-GSC second team.

"Offensively, we're going to be more in sync," Langston said. "I think we're going to be nasty offensively."

Langston said the Bisons have to be ready to meet the expectations set before them.

"In my eyes, Harding is going to be the best team in the GSC," Langston said. "It's the toughest conference in Division II football. We just have to go out and prove we belong to be ranked where we are. I don't think we'll be satisfied with not making the playoffs."

The Bisons will be led in the offensive backfield by sophomore tailbacks DeJuan Patton and Dondray Thomas. The tandem of Patton and Thomas rushed for

a combined 1,054 yards and four touchdowns in 2002, their freshmen seasons.

Thomas said he looks to build on the experience he gained last year and have a breakout season in 2003. He said the keys to a successful season were learned in the off-season.

"We have to stay healthy all season, lift weights hard and play hard as a team all game, every game," Thomas said. "We worked hard in the off-season. We're ready to play now."

The receiving corps will be led by seniors Demarcus Calhoun and Santiago Collins at split-end and junior Tobias Brown at tight end. Collins missed the last four games of the 2002 campaign with a knee injury. The injury has healed and

Collins looks to have a successful senior season.

"We always have to set the bar as high as possible," Collins said. "We have to try and win every game. Our focus now is getting everyone on the same page on both sides of the ball."

Defensively, the Bisons will be looking to compensate for the losses of All-GSC defensive linemen Tim Love and Floyd Black.

Senior linebacker Tim Polk, also named to the 2002 All-GSC team, and senior defensive back Marco Cole, the current Gulf South Conference Defensive Player of the Week, will take charge when the defense is on the field. Polk led the Bisons last season in tackles with 98.

Polk said the defense can't dwell on the absence of Love and Black. "We don't think about who we have or don't have this year," he said. "On Saturday's it's go time."

Polk believes the Bison defense can be the best in the GSC in 2003.

"Offense wins games, but defense wins championships," Polk said. "I don't see any reason why this defense couldn't be the best. Intensity and eagerness in young guys make for a deadly combination. We have the makings of being a dominant defense."

The goal of winning the GSC Championship this season is just one of the goals the Bisons have established for themselves this season. Tribble hopes the success of last season matched with the potential success of this season will be the makings of a tradition of excellence for the Bisons throughout the GSC.

"This is a real important year," Tribble said. "Last year, we earned a lot of respect. We need to do that again this year. We're knocking on the door, but we need some big wins this season in order to get there."

Lady Bisons look to spike competition in 2003

EMILY SANE
Staff writer

We usually try to take one game at a time. We would just like to go out there, play our hardest and end up with another win.

— senior Shaila Farley

Selected unanimously to win the 2003 Gulf South Conference West Division by the conference coaches, the Lady Bison volleyball team enters each match with the pressure to outscore and overpower their opponent.

The Lady Bisons, starting the season with a 7-0 record, focus not on the pressure but on the continuation of improvement to result in the thrill of victory.

Entering this season as the defending champions of the GSC West, the Lady Bisons strive to produce victories as they attempt to recapture their 2002 title.

Five of last season's six starters return to lead the team to a consecutive championship. Consisting of new faces and experienced veterans on the court, the team sports four freshmen and spotlights three seniors, Shaila Farley, Lydia Kelly and Veronica Piech.

Players hope for continued success on the court; however, this success cannot be achieved without the sacrifice of selfishness.

"Our team is not cocky," Piech said. "We go into every match confident, believing that if we play our game, we'll come out on top."

This positive attitude led the Lady Bisons to finish 29-7

overall and 11-1 in conference play during the 2002 regular volleyball season. The winning record produced the team's first appearance in the NCAA Division-II Tournament.

A successful season filled with competitive and interactive games draws volleyball fans to the Rhodes Field House.

"I enjoy watching the volleyball team play because nothing tops the sheer excitement of women's collegiate athletics of their caliber," senior Kevin Redd said. "You can tell they are well-coached and well-disciplined. They are very hard workers."

Thankful for the support of their fans, the Lady Bisons enjoy performing for their crowds.

"We feel like if we can get people to come to one game that they'll at least come back for another," Farley said.

Opening the season with their best start under head coach Keith Giboney, the Lady Bisons won 12 consecutive away games.

"We usually try to take one game at a time," Farley said. "We would just like to go out there,



CURTIS SERIGHT/The Bison

Senior Shaila Farley makes a dig in the Rhodes Field House against John Brown University Sept. 8. The Lady Bisons have started the season with a 7-0 record.

play our hardest and end up with another win."

The team increased its winning streak to 18 games during the second annual Harding University Classic in Searcy on Sept. 5 and 6.

During the Classic, the Lady Bisons hosted Central Arkansas University, Southwest Baptist University and the University of Alabama-Huntsville, ranked second in the GSC East Conference.

"It was really good to beat Alabama-Huntsville 3-0 based on their rank in the other half of the conference," Farley said. "I hope the win helps us regionally

because every game counts when considering regional rankings."

Building on a successful foundation, the Lady Bisons continue to gain strength as a team and individually.

"My goal is just to come to every practice every day and make myself a better player," Piech said. "The team can do great things if we all strive to be better individuals each day."

The volleyball team looks optimistic towards the remainder of the season. If the Lady Bisons fulfill expectations and win the GSC West championship, they will host the GSC Tournament at the Rhodes Field House Nov. 14 - 15.